

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7401**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1528

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 4, 2007

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Study of the Bible in Schools.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Denbo

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** *The Bible and Similar Works of Literature Electives-* The bill provides that a school corporation may include in its curriculum as an elective a study of world literature, including the Bible and other similar great works of literature.

*Report on Academic Study of Religion-* The bill requires the State Board of Education (the Board) and the Division of Professional Standards (the Division) to jointly develop and report to the Legislative Council before January 1, 2008, a plan to implement the academic study of religion in secondary schools.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *The Bible and Similar Works of Literature Electives-* Biblical Literature (1022) is currently offered as an approved high school course for one credit under the curriculum area of English/Language Arts. In addition, World Literature is also offered as an approved high school course for one credit under the same curriculum area. The Department of Education already provides curriculum assistance for courses contained within English/Language Arts (including World and Biblical Literature). There should not be additional cost to the state regarding this portion of the bill.

*Report on Academic Study of Religion:* The electronic report to the Legislative Council would be able to be produced within the existing resources of the Department.

*Background Information-* The State Board of Education is scheduled to convene 12 times in 2007. Typically, the Board will meet the first Wednesday of each month in a year.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** School corporations are already allowed to offer World and Biblical Literature electives via the English/Language Arts curriculum. It is not likely that this bill would result in additional administrative time or cost to school corporations.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education, State Board of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Schools.

**Information Sources:** Department of Education.

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